

Chief Thomas Tidwell, USFS;

This is a follow-up letter to my earlier letter of 19 November 2012 commenting on the proposed revisions to the Shoshone NF Plan.

The Shoshone NF with its strategic location adjacent to Yellowstone NP and its great diversity of landscapes and habitat types is the single most important national forest in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. Its role in maintaining the ecological integrity of the entire Ecosystem is absolutely essential. The single most effective way to do this is to eliminate all superfluous roads, deny ATV use on forest lands and to legally protect remaining roadless lands by wilderness recommendations.

I object to the proposal to change about 40000 acres in the Horse Creek, Wiggins Fork, Bear Creek and East Fork drainages from backcountry non-motorized to summer and winter motorized. MY RESOLUTION is to keep all these drainages as year round non-motorized.

I object to the proposal to open Francs Peak roadless areas and Wood River roadless areas to either motorized or winter motorized.

I object to the failure of the SNF to recommend these areas for formal wilderness designations in spite of overwhelming public support.

MY RESOLUTION is to recommend these areas to Congress for legal wilderness protection.

The Shoshone NF wants to allow mountain biking in the DuNoir SMU, an area always rated high in wilderness attributes since being set aside for special protection as non-vehicular in 1972. Mountain biking and grizzly habitat are not compatible.

MY RESOLUTION is to recommend the DuNoir SMU as legal wilderness.

The Shoshone NF plan fails to recommend the Trout Creek Roadless Area for formal wilderness protection. This is also country of outstanding wilderness quality and is important grizzly bear habitat. MY RESOLUTION is to recommend the Trout Creek Roadless Area to Congress for legal wilderness protection.

The Shoshone NF is proposing to change about 50 additional acres in the Lean-to Creek drainage from backcountry non-motorized to a managed timber lands designation. This would mean more intrusions into what is now secure grizzly habitat adjacent to the Washakie Wilderness.

MY RESOLUTION is to keep Lean-to Creek as backcountry non-motorized.

I urge you to keep in mind that every roadless acre will be essential in coming decades to maintaining the health of the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

This is a prime opportunity for the FS to step up and do the right thing for the Public Trust. Future generations will be grateful.

I appreciate this opportunity to voice my objections to the proposed Shoshone NF Plan.

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